

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF HARVEST MOUSE,
REITHRODONTOMYS GRACILIS, FROM
ISLA DEL CARMEN, CAMPECHE

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On 7 and 8 July 1962, two field parties from the Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, collected vertebrates on Isla del Carmen, the barrier island separating Laguna de Términos from the Gulf of Campeche in western Campeche, México. Among the mammals obtained by the two groups were seven specimens of the slender harvest mouse, *Reithrodontomys gracilis*, which represent a new subspecies that is named and described below.

***Reithrodontomys gracilis insularis*, new subspecies**

Holotype: Adult male, skin and skull, no. 92262 Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, from 8 mi ENE Ciudad del Carmen, Isla del Carmen, Campeche; obtained on 7 July 1962, by William C. Stanley (original no. 373).

Diagnosis and comparisons: The new subspecies is a drab-colored, medium-sized race of *R. gracilis* having the following diagnostic features: Ground color of upper parts pale ochraceous-tawny, palest on sides, darkest on head and back owing to presence of black guard hairs (overall appearance of dorsum grizzled brownish; underparts grayish-white (hairs plumbeous basally, tipped with white) except chin, which is pure white; upper parts of legs pale tawny; forefeet whitish, hind feet grayish white excepting white hairs on toes; tail indistinctly bicolored, pale brownish above, paler below; braincase well inflated but flattened dorsally; zygomatic arches broad, narrowest anteriorly, bowed ventrally to alveolar level of toothrows or beyond; rostrum relatively long and broad; toothrows short; auditory bullae only moderately inflated.

R. g. insularis needs direct comparison only with *R. g. gracilis*, the only other subspecies of the species inhabiting the Caribbean lowlands, from which *insularis* differs as follows: Upper parts drabber (lacking the conspicuous tawny appearance of *gracilis*), sides paler, underparts lacking any trace of buffy color in pectoral region; skull averaging larger in

several dimensions, especially greatest length and zygomatic breadth; mesopterygoid fossa broader (average breadth 1.54 mm in seven specimens of *insularis*, 1.28 in seven specimens of *gracilis*); rostrum broader over-all owing partly to more divergent roots of incisors, and averaging longer; braincase broader and deeper.

Measurements: External measurements in millimeters of the holotype, followed in order by those of another adult male, two adult females, and two young adult females, are: Total length, 175, 173, 181 (tip of tail missing), 179, 175, 179; length of tail vertebrae, 97, 98, 99 (tip missing), 101, 98, 102; length of hind foot, 18, 17, 19, 18, 18, 19.5; length of ear from notch, 14, —, 15.5, 13, 14, 14.5; weight in grams, —, 11.4, —, —, 10.6, 10.5.

Respective cranial measurements, also in millimeters, of the same six specimens are: Greatest length of skull, 22.5, 21.6, 22.4, 22.0, 22.0, 21.9; zygomatic breadth, 10.8, 11.2, 11.2, 11.5, 11.0, 10.7; interorbital constriction, 3.3, 3.2, 3.5, 3.5, 3.4, 3.2; breadth of braincase, 10.5, 10.5, 10.4, 10.7, 10.5, 10.5; depth of skull, 8.2, 8.1, 8.1, 8.4, 8.2, 8.1; length of rostrum, 8.1, 7.6, 7.8, 7.8, 7.4, 7.6; breadth of rostrum, 4.2, 3.9, 4.0, 4.1, 3.9, 3.8; length of maxillary toothrow, 3.1, 3.0, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.1; length of incisive foramen, 3.7, 4.0, 4.0, 3.9, 3.8, 3.7; length of palate, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 3.5, 3.5. Cranial measurements were taken as described by Hooper (Misc. Publ. Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, 77: 9–11, 1952).

Remarks: The three specimens of the new subspecies labeled with reference to Cuidad del Carmen were trapped in coconut groves in company with *Mus musculus*. The ground vegetation was moderately dense and the substrate sandy. The four individuals from 1 km SW Puerto Real also were taken in a coconut grove. Insofar as I am aware, no kind of harvest mouse previously has been reported from Isla del Carmen.

Three of the five females examined were pregnant; each carried three embryos.

Specimens examined: Seven, all from Isla del Carmen, Campeche, as follows: 3 mi E Cuidad del Carmen, 2 (KU 92260–61); 8 mi ENE Cuidad del Carmen, 1 (holotype); 1 km SW Puerto Real, 4 (KU 92263–66).

Specimens of *Reithrodontomys gracilis gracilis* used in comparisons are as follows: 6.5 km WSW Sisal (KU 92253), 3 km N Pisté (KU 92254), and Pisté (KU 92255), Yucatán; Pueblo Nuevo Xcan (KU 92256–57) and 4 km NNE Felipe Carrillo Puerto (KU 92258), Quintana Roo; 7.5 km W Escárcega, Campeche (KU 92259); Uaxactún, Guatemala (KU 65384–85).

Support for field work from the U. S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (Contract DA 49-193 MD-2215) is acknowledged.